

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THESSA 00600 031858Z

42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-10 SAJ-01 OMB-01 AID-05 EB-07 DHA-02

ORM-01 TRSE-00 MC-02 DEAE-00 SNM-02 JUSE-00 AGR-10

/110 W

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P 031340Z OCT 75

FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2461

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

UNCLAS THESSALONIKI 0600

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, GR, TU

SUBJECT: FIRST REACTIONS TO HOUSE VOTE ON
MILITARY SALES TO TURKEY

1. THESSALONIKI'S ONLY AFTERNOON PAPER "THESSALONIKI"
TODAY BANNER HEADLINES HOUSE VOTE ON FRONT PAGE WITH "RESUMPTION
OF ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY". SECONDARY HEADLINES ARE "AID
PROPOSED BY PHILHELLENIC CONGRESSMEN FOR CYPRIOT REFUGEES
REJECTED" AND "TURKEY EXPRESSED IMMEDIATE RESERVATIONS
BECAUSE DECISION SPEAKS ONLY OF PARTIAL LIFTING OF EMBARGO".

2. DETAILED STORY ON HOUSE VOTE APPEARS ON LAST PAGE OF PAPER
WHILE STORY ON ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORTS PRIOR TO VOTE,
APPARENTLY WRITTEN AND LAID OUT BEFORE NEWS OF VOTE RECEIVED,
ON FRONT PAGE. THIS STORY ENTITLED "BLACKMAILER FORD"
REPORTS THAT PRESIDENT FORD "APPEALED" TO HOUSE TO LIFT
EMBARGO ON GROUNDS THAT IT "INDISPENSABLE FOR IMPORTANT
SECURITY INTERESTS OF US AND NATO, AS WELL AS MAINTENANCE OF
PEACE AND STABILITY IN EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN". SAME STORY,
QUOTING TURKISH PAPER "HURRIET", SAYS THAT PRESIDENT FORD HAD ASSURED
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TURKEY ON FAVORABLE OUTCOME OF VOTE.

3. LAST PAGE STORY REPORTING VOTE, BASED ON AP AND REUTERS SOURCES, SAYS THAT DIFFERENCES IN HOUSE-SENATE VERSIONS MUST BE WORKED OUT AND IT MAY BE END OF OCTOBER BEFORE BILL SIGNED INTO LAW. STORY ALSO REPORTS THAT IN ADDITION TO DOLLARS 185 MILLION IN ARMS, BILL AUTHORIZES PRESIDENT TO APPROVE ARMS SALES "FOR CASH" TO TURKEY TO MEET ITS NATO COMMITMENTS. REST OF STORY SIMILARLY FACTUAL, INCLUDING DESCRIPTION OF WHELAN AMENDMENT ON INITIATION OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH TURKEY ON ILLEGAL OPIUM SHIPMENTS. ONE FINAL PARAGRAPH, HOWEVER, CHARACTERIZES ADMINISTRATION ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF BILL AS "TACTICS OF FEAR" WHICH LINK LIFTING OF EMBARGO TO PRESERVATION OF US INTELLIGENCE BASES IN TURKEY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975THESSA00600
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750344-0309
From: THESSALONIKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751086/aaaacytf.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 NOV 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 NOV 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <13 JAN 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FIRST REACTIONS TO HOUSE VOTE ON MILITARY SALES TO TURKEY
TAGS: MASS, GR, TU, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006